



# COOMBE HILL INFANTS' SCHOOL

*Learn together, grow together*

Friday 8 November 2024

Dear Families,

We hope that you all enjoyed a break and that your children are ready for a busy, exciting term with lots of learning.

The weather has certainly turned colder. Please remember to send your child in with a warm coat and please name it. If we find unnamed items we put them into the lost property box in the year 1 playground.

This week we have been focusing on being RESPECTFUL like Winnie the Pooh - "We are gentle, kind and helpful". Winnie the Pooh teaches us how to share, work with others, and think of the feelings of others. At home, please encourage children to say please and thank you, open the door for others, take turns in games and conversations, and listen to others. In Year 2, we have been thinking about the **UNICEF Rights of the Child Article 2** "Every child around the world has the same rights" and discussing the difference between a WANT and a RIGHT.

Here is the link to information about our [Learning Behaviours](#) on our school website.

Next week, we will be thinking about being READY like Piglet as he teaches us to get ready for learning by sitting and listening well and looking at the teacher. You can help at home by encouraging the children to get enough sleep, get lots of exercise, eat healthily, and by talking about what helps your child concentrate.

## **Fireworks event**

What a perfect night it was for our fireworks event! A huge thank you to all of you who made the evening so special - to all of you who came and enjoyed the wonderful fireworks display, to our amazing Site Team for lighting up the school grounds, and last, but definitely not least, to our hardworking CHIPTA team who made the event run so smoothly.



### **Diwali assembly**

On Wednesday we held our Diwali assembly and the children all learned that Diwali is celebrated by Hindus all around the world. We lit candles and learned about the festival of lights. Thank you to the lovely Reception parents who visited Reception this week to share some of their Diwali traditions.



If you would like to come into school to tell us about any festivals you and your family celebrate, please do contact us.

### Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Poppy Appeal in school this week. We hope to be able to tell you how much we have raised soon. Some of our year 2 children will be laying a wreath at the war memorial on New Malden high street on Sunday at 9.30am.



### Message from our Chair of Governors, Becky Buckley

*The autumn term is a busy one for schools, and the same is true for its governors. Back at the start of term, looking forward to the new school year, we were creating action plans for our committees, to ensure we focus on the right things at the right time, and making sure we have the right people in place.*

*At our first full governor's meeting this year, I was appointed your new Chair of Governors. We're also holding a parent governor election, starting next week, so look out for the information on this. I have been a governor for six years now and started as a parent governor. It's an extremely rewarding and interesting role.*

*I was privileged this term to be able to contribute to the review which resulted in the school being awarded the Unicef Silver Rights Respecting School award, and I am looking forward to joining in the schedule of visits, where governors monitor the school's provision in different subject areas. It's always a joy to speak to the children and find out what they enjoy the most in their learning.*

*Do think about joining us, if you feel you could offer your time and skills to this important role.*

*Becky Buckley  
Chair of Governors*

### Parent Survey and Our Response

Thank you to all of you who completed the Parent survey in the summer. We have taken some time to study your thoughts and comments and would now like to share our response to your comments in this document [You said ..... we did](#). If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Great Athletes sponsorship



Following the fun fitness circuit we held on 23rd October with Courtney Orange, your children have raised a total of **£659** in sponsorship which is **AMAZING**. The money raised will go towards new sports equipment for our school. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to handing out the much anticipated stickers and bands in due course to all the children who raised money through their sponsorship forms.

#### **Reception and Year 1 phonics workshops next week**

Reception and Year 1 parents are encouraged to attend our phonics workshops next week so that you can understand how we teach the children and how you can support them at home with their phonics learning. Please come to the School Hall after the morning drop via the school office entrance.

- Wednesday 13 November at 9.00 am - Reception
- Thursday 14 November at 9.00 am - Year 1

#### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Our overall attendance target is 96%. Our overall attendance this week is **96.99%**. **Ladybird and Squirrel classes** achieved the highest attendance this week, both with **98.75%** attendance, well done to both classes!



#### **A Connections Club update**

Please see a statement from Connections Club via this link: [Connections Club statement re expansion Oct 2024.docx](#)

#### **Amendment to the Autumn term menu**

We have reviewed and amended our menu slightly on Monday and Tuesday of week 2, please find a link to the updated menu here [CHI Autumn term menu - Revised Week 2 .pdf](#)

#### **Donations for the Christmas Fair**

Please continue to look at home for any books (age 4+), toys (age 4+), and items of Coombe Hill uniform that are no longer needed and set them aside for the Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December. Don't forget to save your jars (big or small) and sweets for the Jolly Jar Tombola! Also, if you have anything suitable for the Secret Room (where children can shop for their adults and siblings in secret!), please keep those aside too. (These items can be anything you would like to receive as a present from your children.) Further information about when and where to bring donations will be sent out in due course.

#### **DBS check certificates**

If you have had a DBS check through the school so that you can volunteer to help with trips, reading, cooking, etc in school, and have received your certificate through the post, you must bring the certificate to the school office where the staff will take a copy - seeing your original certificate is part of our checking process. All parent helpers at our school **MUST** have a DBS check carried out by Coombe Hill Infants School *unless* you are already subscribed to the DBS update service for a similar role in another school. Please contact the school office with any questions about DBS checks.

#### **Parent Workshop about our approach to behaviour management**

We are running a Parent Workshop "Our Approach to Behaviour Management - and how you can support at home" on Friday 29th November 2024 in the school from 9.00 - 9.45am.

### Parent workshops and webinars

Please find attached a link to an excellent selection of webinars as part of the "Helping Children with ...." Series [Helping Children Series 24-25.pdf](#). The topics include worries, resilience, friendships, challenging behaviours, screentime, and sleep - if there is something else you would like help with, please talk to Mrs Jakob. Some parents have asked for support to encourage resilience within their child - so here are a few ["top tips" to help develop your child's emotional resilience](#). Shazia is also planning future parent workshops - please let us know what topics you would like her to cover.

**Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives** Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses> for courses on: Play - Coping with Teens - A New Baby in the Family - Bringing Up Confident Children - Sibling Arguments and Co-parenting after Divorce. Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

### OPAL webinar for parents

Next week, on Wednesday 13 November, OPAL is holding a short webinar for parents to talk about the power of play to help you to make play part of every day for your child. OPAL Director Michael Follett will explore some of the key benefits of play, look at how playwork theory can support parents, and share his top tips for play at home. This event is part of OPAL's commitment to making play part of every child's life and is fundraising to support Project Play, a wonderful organisation that provides safe spaces to play for displaced children in Northern France. This webinar is free to attend, but participants are encouraged to make a suggested donation of £10 to Project Play's fundraiser, which is being match funded by OPAL CIC. Find out more and book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/4fgpQKK>

### Pupil Premium Grant

When your child was admitted to the school we checked their eligibility for the Pupil Premium Grant. Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant receive funded benefits throughout the school year from us as a school and from the local authority. Please get in touch with us if your financial circumstances have changed since your child joined the school and their eligibility was checked and you think you may now be eligible. Please complete the attached link and your status will be re-assessed <https://forms.gle/mN1XwRS174XqDdo39>

### Community Information

- **The HENRY programme** works in partnership with parents to support a healthy lifestyle for your child. Please find attached their October newsletter which includes details of a new "Understanding Fussy Eating" workshop running online in November and an 8 week programme starting in January. The programmes and workshops are for parents of children aged 5 - 12. [HENRY Parent Newsletter Oct 2024.pdf](#)
- Please find to follow a poster with details of an event with **Dean Beadle** at Latchmere school on **Tuesday 12 November from 6.30 - 8.30pm**, he will be speaking about autism and social/emotional needs.
- We can refer you to the **School Health team** for concerns around problems with eating, or for day/night wetting - please email the school office with your concerns.
- If your child missed having their **flu vaccination** in school, please see the attached poster below for a reminder of the catch up sessions that are being offered locally.
- **Rose Theatre Open Day for Reception children- Sunday 17 November** - the Rose Theatre are holding an open day for Reception children to give little ones and parents a chance to try out the Rose Youth Theatre Academy with a short workshop for them and a Q&A and cuppa

for parents. There are sessions from 9.00 - 10.15am and from 10.15 - 11.15am, please sign up via the following link [RYTA Act 1 - Reception Open Day Sign Up Form](#).

### Christmas Events at The Alligator's Mouth in Richmond

- **Sat 16th Nov 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
[Carys Bexington: The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland](#)  
Author storytime and creative workshop  
RSVP essential, £5 (redeemable when you buy a copy of The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland £7.99) We can't wait to welcome Carys Bexington for a Christmassy event based on her delightful picture book The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland. Join Carys for an interactive reading and a creative art workshop, in which children will create their own Christmassy pet and festive story. There will also be a special advance look at the new Night Before Christmas in Wonderland animated film, and Carys will sign your books.
- **Sat 23rd Nov 10:30am-12:00pm**  
[Axel Scheffler: Illustrator Signing](#)  
Signing with Axel Scheffler, bestselling illustrator of The Gruffalo and more No RSVP necessary  
On this occasion, Axel will only have time to sign books bought from us (either ordered in advance or bought on the day). This year, just in time for Christmas, you can come along to meet bestselling illustrator Axel Scheffler who will sign your books. We will have all of Axel's books for you to choose from, including special editions and the latest publication Jonty Gentoo. Due to limited time, Axel will be able to meet people on a first come, first served basis - but books can be reserved and signed at a later date, ready for collection by Christmas.
- **Sat 7th Dec 3:00-5:00pm**  
[Oliver Jeffers: Author Signing, Where to Hide a Star](#)  
Author/illustrator signing event RSVP essential, £14.99 (includes a copy of Where to Hide a Star) Oliver Jeffers is the bestselling author and illustrator of *How to Catch a Star*, *Stuck*, and *Here We Are*, amongst many other favourite picture books. This winter, Oliver returns with the long-awaited sequel to the Boy stories, *Where to Hide a Star*, in a beautiful hardback edition for the perfect Christmas gift. The ticket price to this event entitles you to a hardback copy of *Where to Hide a Star* and entry for your family to the signing event. Please note, we will have Oliver's previous titles for sale on the day, but he will not have time to sign books brought in from home. RSVP is essential. Please book either the 3:00pm or 3:30pm timeslot and please arrive as close to the time of your slot as possible.
- **Thursdays 11am Story & Rhyme Time**  
£3 (redeemable against any purchase on the day) Ideal 0-4yrs Join us for new picturebooks and traditional rhymes, read and performed by Alligator's Mouth staff. And as always you are welcome to ask our recommendations for new stories to discover together with your child. RSVP welcome or just turn up! The £3 entry price is redeemable against any purchase on the day (making the storytime free if you buy a book!)
- **Let's support our independent bookshops on our High Streets ! if you are looking to get a headstart on your Christmas Shopping, take a look at the The Alligator's Mouth [subscription](#) and [Gift Box ideas](#)**

### Previous newsletters

Our previous newsletters can be found here on our website

<https://www.coombehillinfants.com/page/?title=Parent+Newsletter&pid=225>


Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry

Headteacher

*Safeguarding our young children is our priority and all staff are trained to keep children safe. However, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you are concerned about a child or young person please call Children's Services on 020 8547 5008. The South London CAMHS Crisis Line for both children and adults can be reached on 0800 028 8000.*



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

# DEAN BEADLE

**TUESDAY**  
12th November 2024

**STARTS AT**  
6:30PM TO 8:30PM

**AT LATCHMERE SCHOOL**  
Latchmere Road, Kingston upon  
Thames, KT2 5TT

**TICKETS ARE**  
£10 per person

**EVENT OPEN TO ALL**

*Dean will be speaking about autism and social/emotional needs.*

**REGISTER HERE**

 @deanbeadlespeaker



# PERCUSSION JAM



**FUN WITH  
DRUMS!**

**Suitable for  
Reception to  
Year 3 students**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**4:15-  
4:45PM**

**TOLWORTH**



[www.kingston.gov.uk/music](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/music)

## Help Us Help You



### Self Care

Stock your medicine cabinet as many minor issues, like coughs, grazes and sore throats are treatable at home.



### Pharmacy

Pharmacists offer medical advice and medicines for minor illnesses like coughs, colds, tummy trouble, rashes and aches and pains, and also give flu jabs.



### GP

Within normal surgery hours your GP should be your first contact with health concerns. GPs provide examinations, advice, prescriptions, vaccinations and referrals.



### 111.nhs.uk

You should visit 111.nhs.uk when you cannot wait to see your doctor. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help urgently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



### NHS 111

You should call 111 when you cannot wait to see your doctor. NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help urgently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



### A&E

A&E departments in hospitals are open for life threatening emergencies like heart attacks and accidents, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



## **Missed your flu vaccine?**

**Live in the boroughs of Kingston or  
Richmond? Aged 4-16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and  
protect yourself this winter!

**Call 020 3691 1043 to book an  
appointment**

**Tuesday 29 October 09:30 - 12:30  
Teddington Health and Social Care Centre,  
TW11 0LR**

**Or come down to one of our  
walk-in clinics**

**Saturday 16 November 09:30 - 12:30  
Southborough School Clinic, KT6 5AS**

**Saturday 14 December 09:30 - 12:30  
Sheen Lane Clinic, SW14 8LP**